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Masked men lock entrance gates

Classes, exams in DU not held

Varsity Correspondent

Classes and examinations of Dhaka University could not be held on Wednesday as the entrance gates of Arts Faculty building and Curzon Hall were under lock and key.

A group of unidentified youths wearing masks snatched the keys from the guards on duty on Tuesday night. The identity of the youths were not known. A joint meeting of the Dhaka University authorities and student organisations on Wednesday described the incident as unexpected and regrettable and suggested punitive measures identifying the persons responsible for the incident.

The joint meeting presided over by Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Wakil Ahmed, expressed firm determination to continue the academic activities of the University and urged all to become alert so that such incident could not occur in future.

The meeting was attended among others by teachers representatives of Syndicate, Deans, Provosts, Proctor, Assistant Proctors and leaders of all student organisations.

Members of the student organisations informed the meeting that they

had no connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University campus remained tense on Wednesday following the arrest of 14 students of Jagannath Hall from Institution of Engineers during the Janmashtami function on Tuesday night.

Police arrested 14 students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on Tuesday on charge of their alleged involvement in ransacking the institution property during the Janmashtami function organised by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Immediately after the arrest of students, a large procession was brought out by Dhaka University students on the campus on Tuesday midnight demanding release of the students.

Police intercepted the processionists near Shahabagh crossing when they tried to march towards the police control room.

Police sealed all roads to Dhaka University campus and took necessary measure to resist any untoward incident.

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Meanwhile, Jagannath Hall Chhatri Sangsad and leaders of Jagannath Hall units of different student organisation at a Press conference condemned the arrest of 14 students of the Hall and demanded their immediate release.

They blamed the government for what they said its failure to provide adequate security to those attending in Janmashtami function at institutions of Engineers and said that without nabbing the miscreants responsible for the attack on Janmashtami procession, the police arrested 14 innocent students while they were enjoying Janmashtami function on Tuesday.

They said that police filed cases against the students under Anti-terrorism Act.

The press conference was addressed among others by Jagannath Hall Chhatri Sangsad V-P Subash Shingha Roy, Acting General Secretary Sujit Kumar Roy Nandi, Chhatri League (JSD-Inu) Hall unit Vice-President Biswajit Roy Chowdhury, Chhatri Union leader Asit Bran Das, Subashis Biswas and Nirmal Chatterjee.

They said most of the arrested

students are examinees and urged the university authorities, DUCSU leaders and leaders of all progressive student organisations to take necessary steps to release the students.

Replying to a question, they said that they did not call any strike in the university.

Different student organisations in separate statements on Wednesday protested the arrest of 14 students of Jagannath Hall and demanded their immediate release.

Samajtantrik Chhatri Front, Chhatri Federation, Chhatri League (JSD-Inu) and Ganotantrik Chhatri Oikya in their statements criticised the government for nabbing the students and urged all to build united resistance against government's repression.